



**For Immediate Release
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**THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION ANNOUNCES
PUBLIC MEETING DATES TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR PHASE II
OF THE NEPONSET RIVER ENHANCEMENT**

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced today the public meeting date for the second of three meetings to discuss Phase II renovation plans for a major section of the Neponset River. This area encompasses 125 acres from Central Avenue in East Milton to Paul's Bridge in Hyde Park with over 11 miles of river banks.

In 1994, the Metropolitan District Commission, (MDC) now the DCR, completed the master plan called Phase I for the Lower Estuary of the Neponset River Reservation, which included Pope John Paul II Park, Squantum Point Park, the Neponset salt marsh restoration project, etc. The protection and enhancement of the ecological systems along and in the Neponset River will be a guiding principle in developing Phase II of the Neponset River Reservation Master Plan. Both passive and active recreation opportunities will be promoted and enhanced, while protecting and enhancing the river as a living system. The Master Plan Phase II will reflect public comments and input received throughout the planning process.

The second public meeting for the Phase II planning effort will take place on **Wednesday, April 26, 2006 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Hyde Park Community Center**. The Hyde Park Community Center is located on River Street between the Hyde Park Cooperative Bank and Hyde Park Savings Bank and is within walking distance of the Fairmont Commuter Rail Station.

The meeting will be an open house and stations will be set up illustrating the key components of the plan alternatives. Project team members will be available to talk to attendees. A brief presentation at 7:30 p.m. will be followed by a Question and Answer period.

DCR is holding a series of public meetings to allow for public discussion and review. The first public meeting was held on March 8, 2006. A third public meeting will be held in mid June to present the final master plan. Details on the date of this meeting will be announced later this month.

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